

## **IN THE ABSTRACT:**

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure as follows.

The amount of codes is controlled, which are generated during re-coding in conversion of a first bitstream obtained by efficient coding of a moving-picture video signal to a second bitstream. Extracted, from the first bitstream, is at least either information on code amount or information on quantization, as a parameter indicating moving-picture coding difficulty. ~~Obtained~~ Obtained, from the parameter per given period, is an amount of quasi-generated codes which is estimated to be required for achieving a given picture quality. The amount of quasi-generated codes is adjusted for each ~~of the~~ given period to obtain a target code amount. The target code amount is assigned to a given portion of the moving-picture video signal so that a total code amount of the given portion of the moving-picture video signal matches a recordable total code amount for a storage medium for storing the given portion of the moving-picture video signal. The first bitstream is re-coded while code amount control is performed in accordance with the target code amount, thus the first bitstream ~~being converting~~ is converted into the second bitstream to be recorded in the storage medium.